

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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EC EXPANDS "COOPERATION" AGREEMENT CLEARING PROCEDURE

1. THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON JANUARY 20 APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION A CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY'S DECISION TAKEN IN JULY 1974 TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW "COOPERATION" AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EC MEMBER STATES AND THIRD COUNTRIES. THE NEW REGULATION MAKES IT OBLIGATORY FOR MEMBER STATES TO INFORM EACH OTHER AND THE EC COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE NEGOTIATION OF COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH ALL THIRD COUNTRIES AND ESTABLISHES A SET CONSULTATION PERIOD FOLLOWING INITIALING DURING WHICH OBJECTIONS CAN BE RAISED. (PREVIOUSLY, DUE TO A BRITISH OBJECTION, THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS WAS OBLIGATORY ONLY FOR AGREEMENTS WITH STATE TRADING COUNTRIES AND MEMBER COUNTRIES OF OPEC.)
 2. COMMISSION AND PERM REP SOURCES EMPHASIZE THAT THIS EXPANSION OF THE MANDATE FOR THE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS CLEARING COMMITTEE REPRESENTS NO SIGNIFICANT EXTENSION IN THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY (OR MOVEMENT TOWARD A COMMON "EXTERNAL ECONOMIC" POLICY). THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS CONTINUES TO BE TO INSURE THAT NONE OF THESE AGREEMENTS CONTAIN REFERENCES TO TRADE BY MEMBER STATES IN DEROGATION OF THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.
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COUNTRIES. MORRIS

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